

DES MOINES, IOWA
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Strange War Statistics

There were an estimated 35,600 Viet Cong in South Vietnam when the United States started to arm and train the much larger South Vietnamese forces to combat them. That was in 1960.

Since then, South Vietnam, the United States and their allies claim to have killed 691,881 enemy fighting men in action. The original 35,600 have been reinforced again and again by new recruits in South Vietnam and new infiltrators from North Vietnam.

After killing 691,881 to wipe out the original 35,600, the U.S. side still faces somewhere around 300,000 enemy armed men either in South Vietnam or not far across the border in Laos, Cambodia or North Vietnam. The Central Intelligence Agency estimates there are also 30,000 secret enemy agents inside areas controlled by South Vietnam and the U.S. In these areas also are "hundreds of thousands" who fail to report what they know about enemy agents and troop movements.

The more enemies we kill in that strange war, the more enemies there are left.